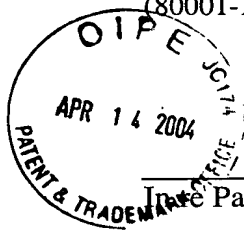


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PATENT APPLICATION

#3/D  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Yoshihiro TSUKAMURA et al.

Examiner: R. J. Hesseltine

Application No.: 09/639,171

Art Unit: 2623

Filed: August 16, 2000

*Confirmation No.: 4002*

For: FINGERPRINT COLLATING DEVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

APR 16 2004

Technology Center 2600

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.